Setting up Telephone Exchanges in Shrinagar (Garhwal)

†3240. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the telephone exchanges targeted to be set up during the year 1999-2000 in the district of Shrinagar (Garhwal) in Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether all these exchanges have been set up, if so, whether they have started functioning; and

(c) if not, by when the work relating to setting up of these exchanges is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) In Shrinagar Telecom. District of Western Uttar Pradesh, 10 exchanges were planned for the year 1999-2000. Out ot" these 8 have been commissioned by 31.3.2000. Remaining 2 are also expected to be commissioned by July/August, 2000. Details are given below:

S.No.	Name of the place where exchange was targeted	Present status
1.	SHIVPURI	Installed and started functioning
2.	BHIRI	— do —
3.	BASUKEDAR	—do—
4.	SONLA BACHHER	—do—
5.	MAITHAN	—do—
6.	GUMKHAL	—do—
7.	RIKHNIKHAL	—do—
8.	SAFDARKHAL	—do-
9.	NAINIDANDA	Expected to be installed by July/August, 2000.
10.	YAMKESHWAR	—do—

Connectivity of Nalanda and Rajgira with Bihar Sharif Exchange

3241. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2003 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 2000 and state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to monitor on day to day basis, the connectivity of Nalanda and Rajgira with their present Exchange in Bihar Sharif;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) if not, in what manner Government concluded that connectivity was functional while almost throughout February, 2000, dialling Nalanda Code drew flock and call used to elecit no response whatsoever;

(d) whether Government would enquire into the matter to find out the truth and punish the officers responsible for furnishing misleading information; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Technical staff are posted for testing of the systems as per schedule.

(c) The connectivity between Nalanda and Bihar Sarif was functional. However, there was some intermittent trouble in the optical fire cable system. This was subsequently rectified. The system is stable since mid February, 2000. Bihar Telecom Circle is keeping a special watch over the system.

(d) & (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Sankhya Vahini India Limited Joint Venture

3242. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of 'Giga-Deal in trouble' as published in India Today, March 17, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government has solemnised the joint venture called Sankhya Vahini India Limited, in the Cabinet meeting on January 19, 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for handling over the Management of SVIL to IU Net even though the Government of India will be holding 51 per cent equity in the venture;

(e) whether the technology offered by IU Net is unique and exclusive; and

(f) if not, the details of other companies as suggested in the news-item and details of efforts to exercise other options?